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override those of the Commonwealth, and the quarrels of factions to imperil the general safety.

Perhaps the best chapter is the last, in which Dr. Slater discusses the problem of the future maintenance of peace. He points out here the necessity above all of creating an international morality much higher than past history has known in Western civilization. He says:

Our own record for the past sixty years includes the Crimean War, Chinese opium wars, Afghan and Zulu wars, bombardment of Alexandria, the Soudan War, the South African War. There are, of course, varying opinions about each of these; there is one, but only one, of them which I personally should be prepared to defend before an international audience. Nor has our inaction been much more honorable than our action.

But the nations will learn, Dr. Slater concludes, as a result of the terrible experiences of the present war. British "navalism"—the right of capture of private goods at sea—as well as German militarism will have to be given up; and society as a whole will win the right to control its belligerent organs.

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British Rural Life and Labor. By FRANCIS GEORGE HEATH.

London: P. S. King & Son, 1911. Pp. xi+318. 10s. 6d.

This volume deals exclusively with that class of rural inhabitants of Great Britain who work for an employer. The author suggests that the terms "servant" and "peasant" are fit designations of the class of paid assistants. The work is largely a detailed statement of the conditions of employment as seen in classes of workers, terms of employment, various modes of payment, wages, housing, clothing, and food, for the various counties and districts of England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. Part V gives a comparative glimpse of the situation in the four parts of the Kingdom, and Part VI, which is an appendix, describes the conditions which obtained in 1873, and is intended to afford a basis of comparison with the present situation. Twenty tables, most of which deal with wages, make it possible to compare the various counties and parts of the Kingdom in the matter of the items covered.

Since it is impossible to review the details of the work in a brief space, attention will be directed to some of the more important results established.

Relative to wages, it is apparent that there has been a general advance between 1873 and 1901, the latter date being the latest date

for which data were available. While at the former date payments were made in cash, kind, cider, housing, and in other ways, the average wage seems to have been about 10s. per week. And while at the present time great variations occur in the amount of earnings, running from 8s. 9d. in Mayo County, Ireland, to 22s. 2d. in some counties of England and Scotland, the average earnings for England, Scotland, and Wales for all classes of laborers for the countries in the order named are 18s. 3d., 19s. 3d., and 17s. 3d. For Ireland they are only 10s. 11d. (pp. 153-56).

Although some attention has been paid in Great Britain to the improvement of the status of the farm employees, it would seem that the advance of wages and any improvement in housing and conditions of living which have occurred have resulted more largely from the working of unconscious social forces than from voluntary efforts. One of the greatest factors has been rural depopulation, which has resulted chiefly from migration to the cities. Between 1871 and 1901 the total number of rural laborers in England and Wales declined nearly 20 per cent; between 1891 and 1901, about 8.8 per cent. The number of farm laborers in Scotland in 1881 was 102,075; in 1901, 83,441. In Ireland at the former date it was 300,001, and at the latter, 217,652 (pp. 158-60). This migration out of the rural districts consists of both males and females, women, like men, preferring to work in cities. Thus in England and Wales the number of female laborers declined from 143,475, in 1851 to 11,963 in 1901. A part of this decline of female laborers is due to a changed view as to the function of women.

While there is a certain amount of casual labor in the Kingdom, this is limited by the fact that on large farms and estates labor is specialized and the employees are hired for a long period, mostly during a half-year or a year. Seasonal labor is partly supplied by men from adjoining towns, by small farmers who have extra time, and to some extent by men from Ireland, who also are generally small farmers (pp. 9, 96, 147). Because of the fact that, generally speaking, the supply of farm labor is less than the demand, there is little unemployment among this class of laborers (p. 38).

The decline of agriculture and the backward condition of the labor population long ago attracted the attention of the British public. The author of the volume under review began to write about those conditions over thirty years ago and to bring them before responsible statesmen. During the course of time the Holdings acts were passed to relieve the situation in Ireland, but at the time this volume was written no legislation for other parts of the Kingdom had been passed. But Mr. Heath

and, judging from quotations, many other enlightened students of the rural situation believe that rural life can be improved and the flow to the cities from the country be stopped by the creation of a system whereby the laborer is enabled to obtain a freehold and freehold cottages. The author believes, and I think rightly, that not only the farm population but the nation's life and welfare are to be most benefited by the working out of a system of small farms and farmers (pp. 161-80).

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The Education of the Negro Prior to 1861: The History of the Education of the Colored People of the United States from the Beginning of Slavery to the Civil War. By CARTER GOODWIN WOODSON, PH.D. (Harvard). New York: Putnam, 1915. Pp. 453+Appendix, Bibliography, and Index.

This book is a chapter in a history that has yet to be written, the history of the American negro. The anti-slavery controversy, abolition, and reconstruction have concentrated the attention of historians to such an extent upon the legal and constitutional aspects of slavery and upon the political consequences of its abolition, that the more intimate and human side of that institution, the relations between the races during and under slavery, has been neglected. One effect of this neglect has been to reduce the negro to the mere embodiment of a political abstraction, in regard to which our chief interest has been to determine to what extent he was to be regarded as an adult human being, entitled to the rights and privileges which a democratic state guarantees equally to all its citizens.

Human institutions, however, are something more than the abstract formulas in which we seek to describe and define them. They get their specific characters very largely from the concrete relations existing between the individuals and groups of individuals who compose them. Neither slavery nor the slave, as they actually were, conformed to the conceptions in which they were defined in the local statutes which are our principal sources of information in regard to them. The slave himself was not always as degraded and abject a being as he would have been if he had conformed to the legal conception of slavery. The cruelties of his situation were ordinarily mitigated by many humane compromises.